



Lake Oroville Re-licensing

Recreation Master Plan Framework

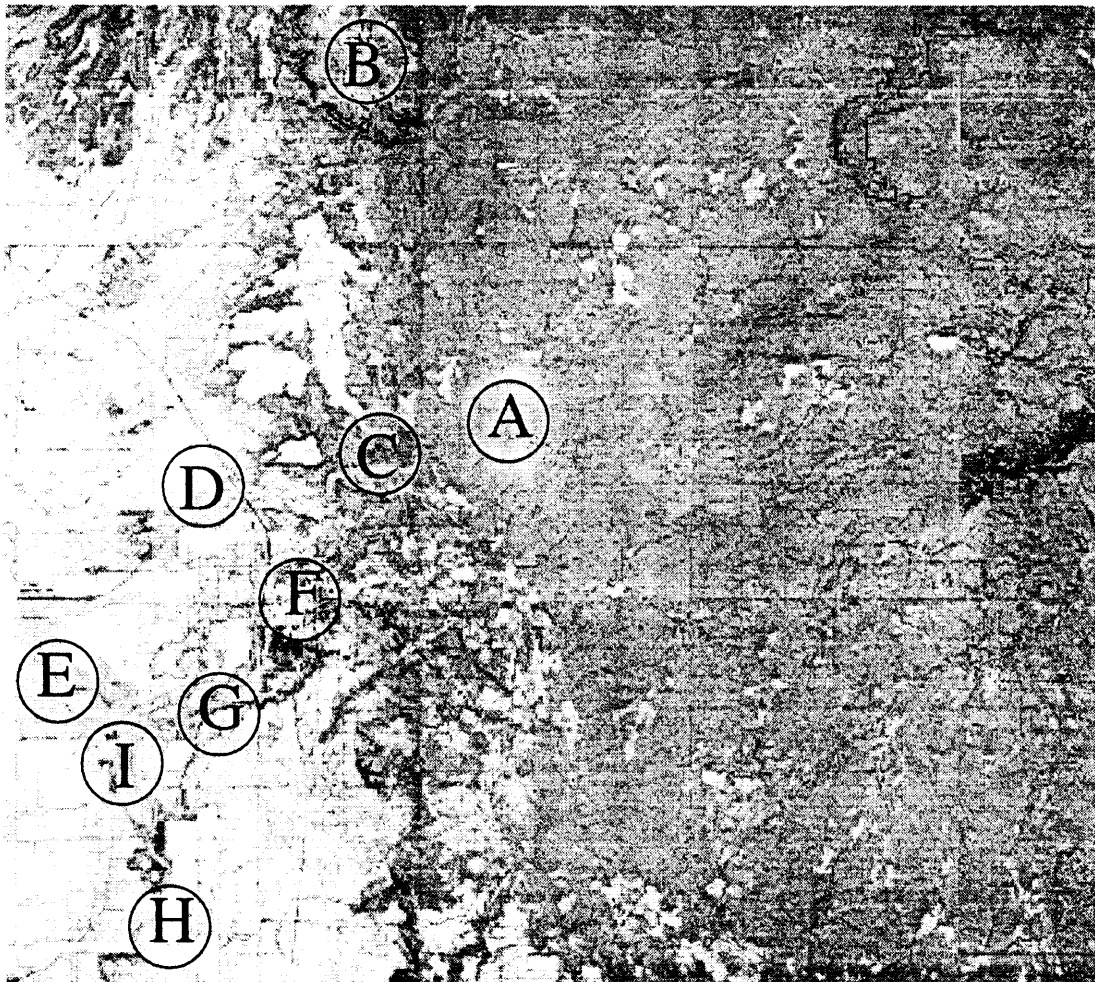




Recreation Master Plan Framework

- Major Resources Areas
- Potential Recreation Clusters
 - Where they are
 - Image/character/unique values
 - Issues and constraints
 - Opportunities – suggested projects
 - Recommended studies
- Recreation Clusters – Needed Components for Future Growth
- Overall Studies

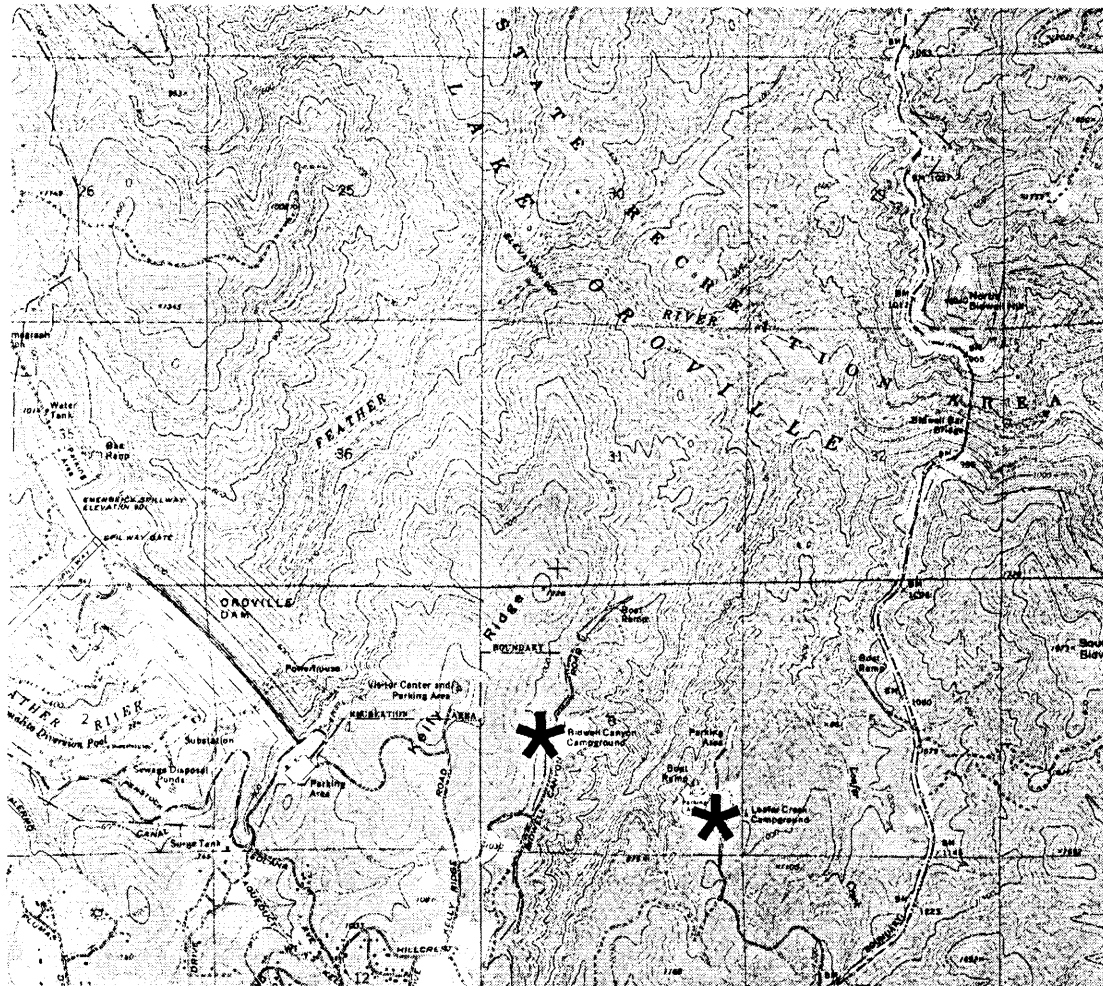
Oroville Complex – Major Resource Areas & Potential Recreation Clusters



- A. Oroville Reservoir
- B. Limesaddle
- C. Diversion Pool
- D. Forebay
- E. Afterbay
- F. Feather River 1
- G. Feather River 2
- H. Feather River 3
- I. Wildlife Area

A. Oroville Reservoir

(Bidwell/Loafer Creek, Reservoir as a whole)



- Image/
Character/
Unique Values
- Issues &
Constraints
- Opportunities
- Recommended
Studies



Image/ Character/ Unique Values

- Excellent bass fishery
- Crowded Bidwell Bar area
- Open, treed Loafer Creek area
- Unique boat in & floating campsites



Issues & Constraints

- Big draw downs limit scenic boating to spring/early summer
- No swimming at Loafer Creek area
July, August,
September
- Incomplete complex at Loafer Creek
- Bidwell facility crowded, not well planned



Opportunities

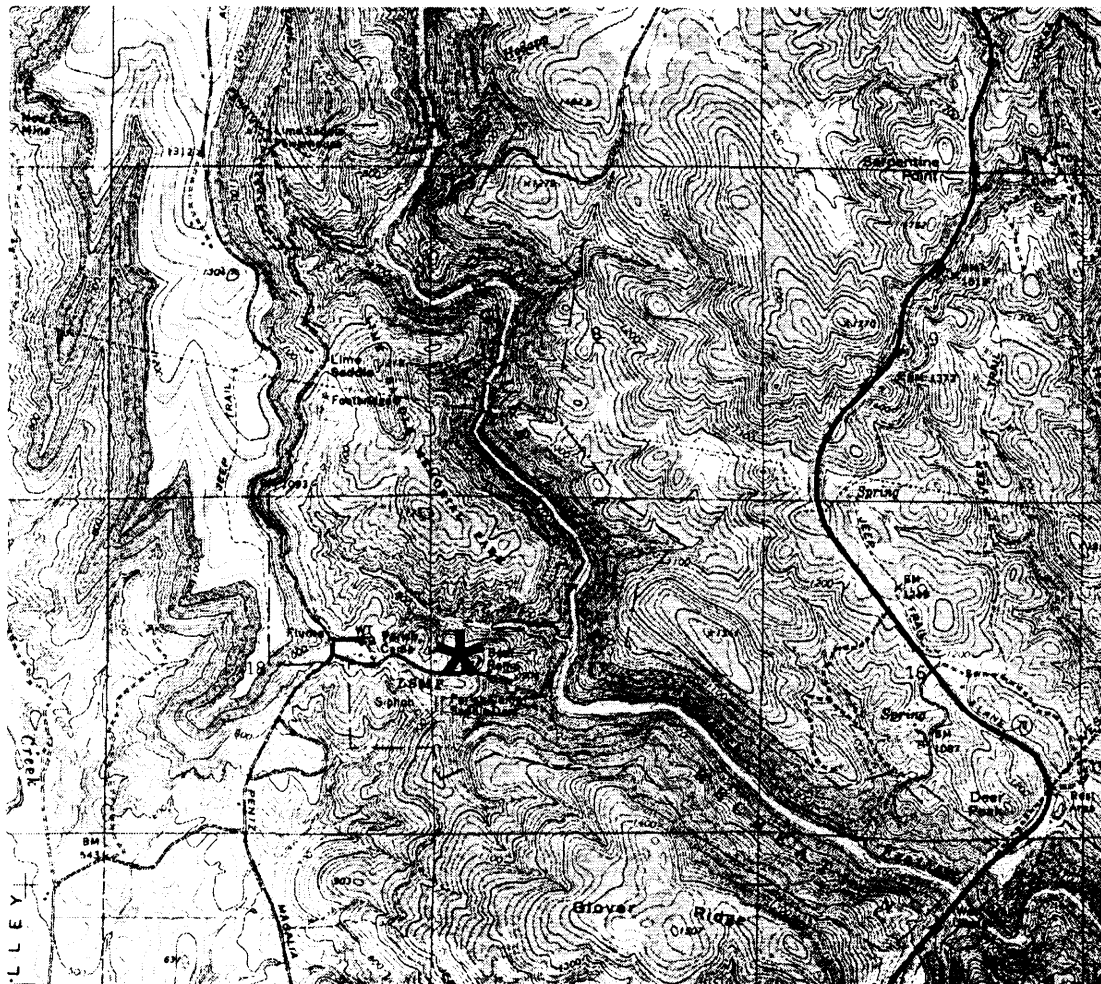
- Take advantage of existing infrastructure to make improvements to area that will extend the use season
- Relocate some camping at Bidwell Creek in order to increase parking for boaters
- Improve trailhead for equestrians south of Bidwell Saddle Dam
- Create onshore and launching facilities at other lakeside locations i.e. Foreman Creek and Potter's Ravine as demand increases
- Consider additional facilities at Loafer Creek in order to create a more complete unit (warm water swimming at constant level pool, etc.)
- Investigate possibility of establishing a tour boat operation on the Lake



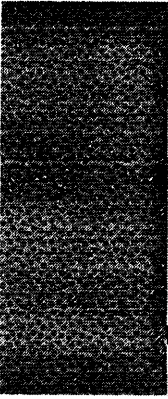
Recommended Studies

- 20 year actual/monthly Reservoir elevation history & projection for next 20 years compared to elevations of shoreline recreational facilities
- Loafer Creek swimming cove feasibility study

B. Limesaddle



- Image/
Character/
Unique Values
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Constraints
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Studies



Image/ Character/ Unique Values

- Local oriented resources to Town of Paradise and Chico markets

- Primarily day use and boating use

- New campground under construction:
Phase 1 - 50 sites



Issues & Constraints

- ✦ Difficult access to marina and launch ramp at lower lake elevations
- ✦ Limited visitor services at site
- ✦ Second entry station for campground will complicate operations at the site
- ✦ There is a shortage of parking spaces
- ✦ Need to acquire PG&E property at entrance to site for expansion of support facilities
- ✦ Concession operation on month to month contract extension
- ✦ State Parks not presently able to add personnel hours at the site but wants to assume control and coordination of site from concessionaire in the future.



Opportunities

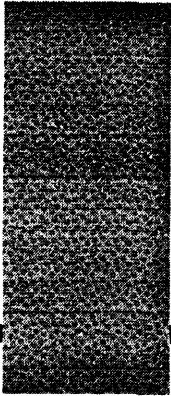
- Possible special event venue related to Town of Paradise and environs
- Possible setting for restaurant and store in conjunction with new campground use
- Possible site for swimming lake in support of summer high use pattern and to compensate for limited access to lake in July, August, September due to lake draw downs
- Promotable area where people can stay when visiting the Town of Paradise and environs
- Possible visitor center oriented to entire Ridge Area
- Possible relocation of concessionaire maintenance area to provide more parking space
- Infrastructure in place to expand campground when demand is demonstrated



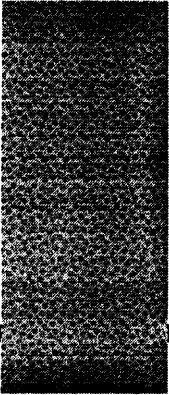
Recommended Studies

- How to solve the management and concessionaire problems – coordination & status of concession contract
- How to become a stand alone unit with a synergy of uses and critical mass
- Explore public/private partnership potentials
- Recreation demand study

A black and white photograph showing a dense, textured surface. The texture is composed of many small, dark, irregular shapes that appear to be repeating in a somewhat regular pattern, possibly a woven fabric or a wall with a specific finish. The lighting is even, highlighting the intricate details of the texture.



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- A black and white photograph showing a dense, textured surface. The texture is composed of many small, dark, irregular shapes that appear to be repeating in a somewhat regular pattern, possibly a woven fabric or a wall with a specific finish. The lighting is even, highlighting the intricate details of the texture.



Image/ Character/ Unique Values

- Scenic natural area
- Quiet
- Constant water level
- Great viewshed, canyon setting, trees, etc.
- Tunnel, trails, old railroad bed



Issues & Constraints

- Conflicts – equestrian vs. bikes
- State Parks lack of funds to manage area
- Fish screen adequacy?
- Needs/ cleanup/ restoration/ removal of exotic plants



Opportunities

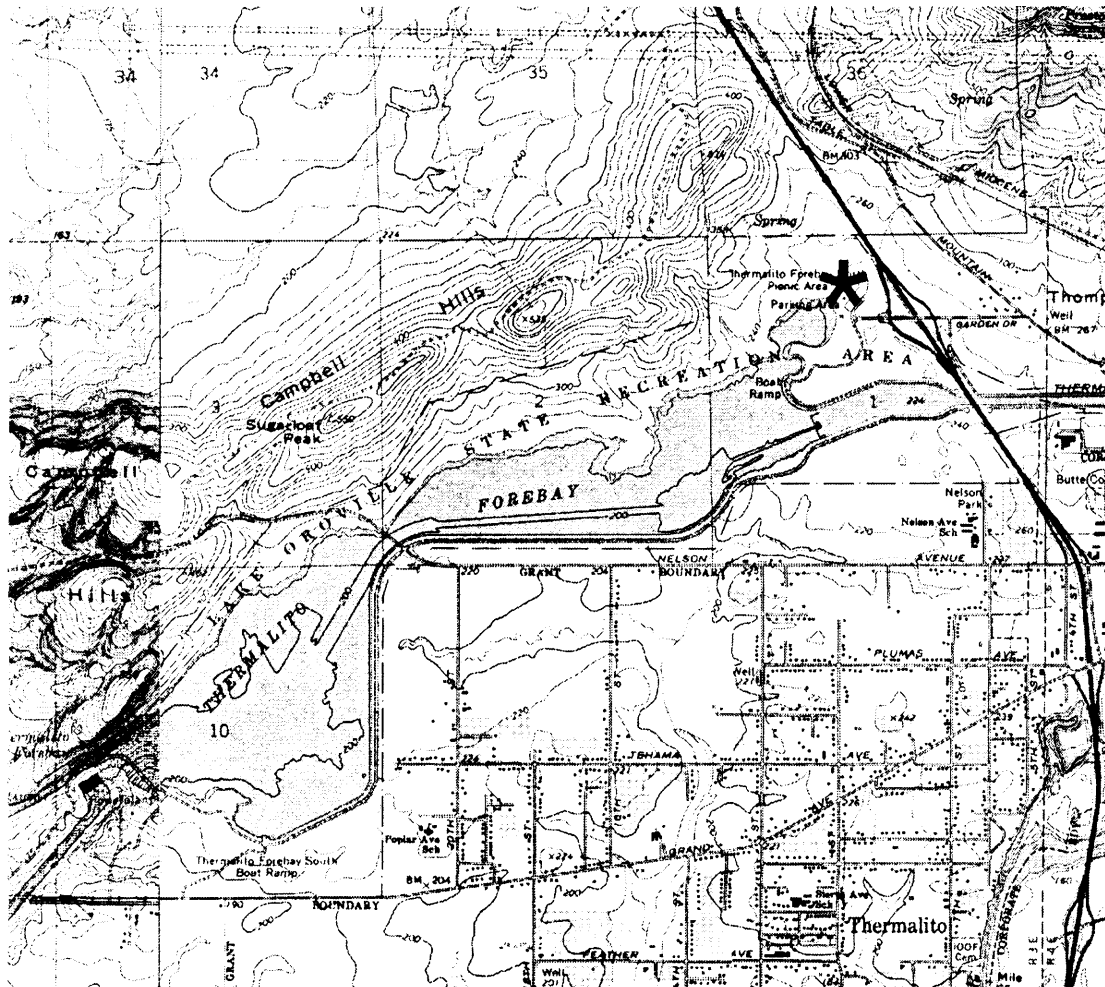
- Preservation of the natural qualities of the area
- Appropriate passive/quality types of recreation and levels of use
- Bike trail, horse trail
- Small railroad to enjoy scenic values
- Boat in picnic &/or camping
- Hike or bike-in picnic &/or camping
- B&B type lodging or rental cabins
- Trout program
- Extension of nature center programming



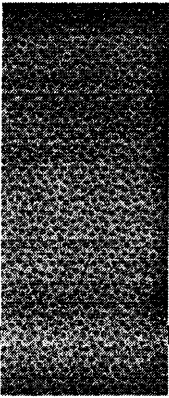
Recommended Studies

- Fish screen needs to protect trout
- Trail compatibility study

D. Thermalito Forebay



- Image/
Character/
Unique Values
- Issues &
Constraints
- Opportunities
- Recommended
Studies



Image/ Character/ Unique Values

- Open, Campbell hills to north, grasslands around, views from freeway,
- Cold water, relatively stable water level
- Freeway interchange
- Developed CDPR facilities



Issues & Constraints

- Water temperature
- Fish protection
- Warm water needs for rice farmers
- Visitor Center proposed location



Opportunities

- Absorb growth in future recreation demand in-lieu of the main reservoir
- Potential area for recreation related economic development
- Infrastructure in place for private/public partnerships

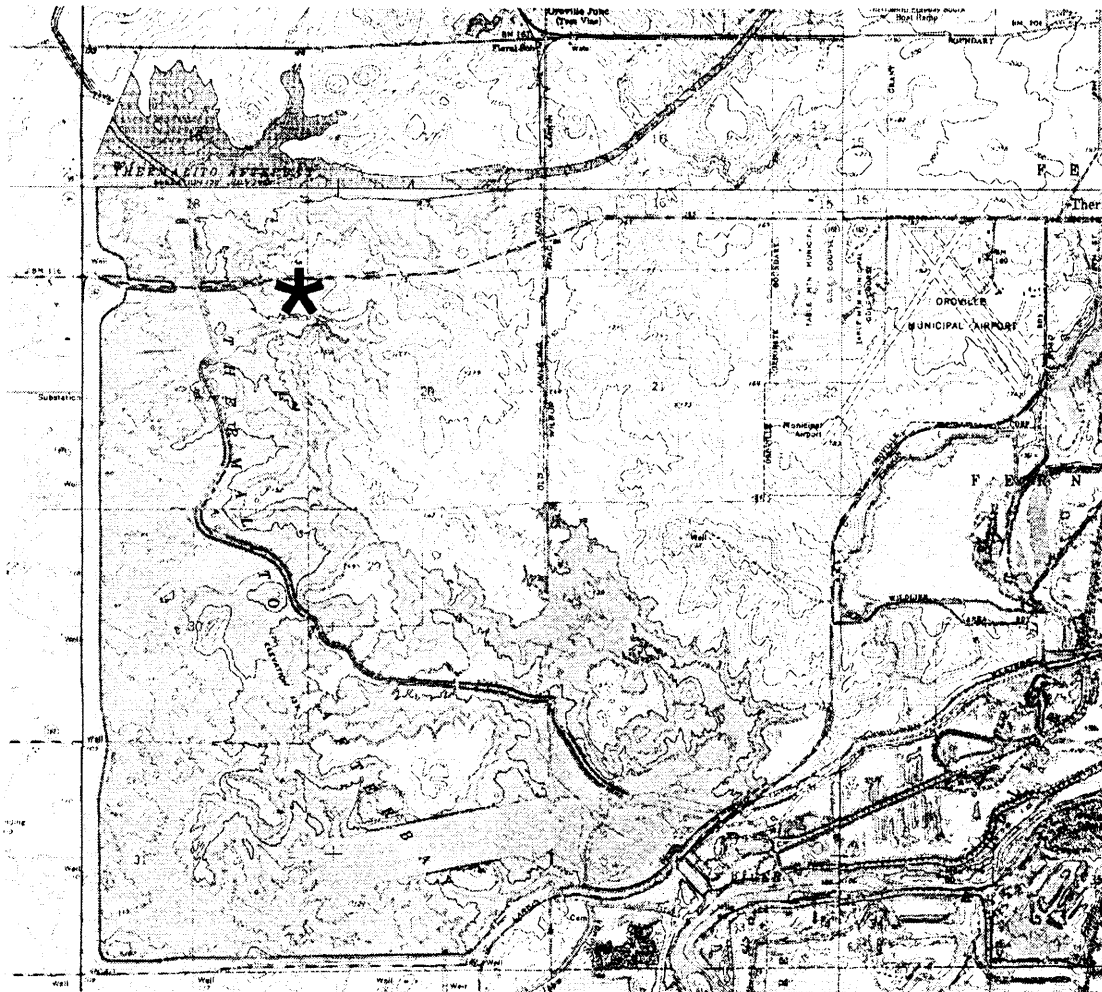
- Potential projects
 - Special events venue
 - Golf/lodge/conference center
 - State Parks visitor center
 - Warm water swimming area



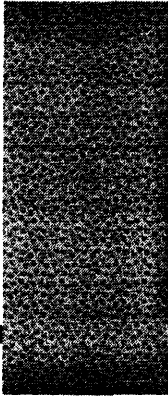
Recommended Studies

- ✦ Market demand study
 - Look at existing Delta, Lake Folsom, Lake Berryessa, Lake Shasta use patterns and projections
 - Identify northern California market for Lake Oroville

E. Thermalito Afterbay



- Image/
Character/
Unique Values
- Issues &
Constraints
- Opportunities
- Recommended
Studies



Image/ Character/ Unique Values

- Numerous islands and points along shoreline
- Level open native grasses with few trees around Afterbay
- 4-5 foot daily water level fluctuation
- Property under management of DWR not CDPR



Issues & Constraints

- Possible constraint to operation of the Afterbay for power generation and downstream releases
- City of Oroville interested in annexing land into city limits in future
- Selected types of recreation activity (jet skis) could conflict with future estate type housing development
- Lack of trees



Opportunities

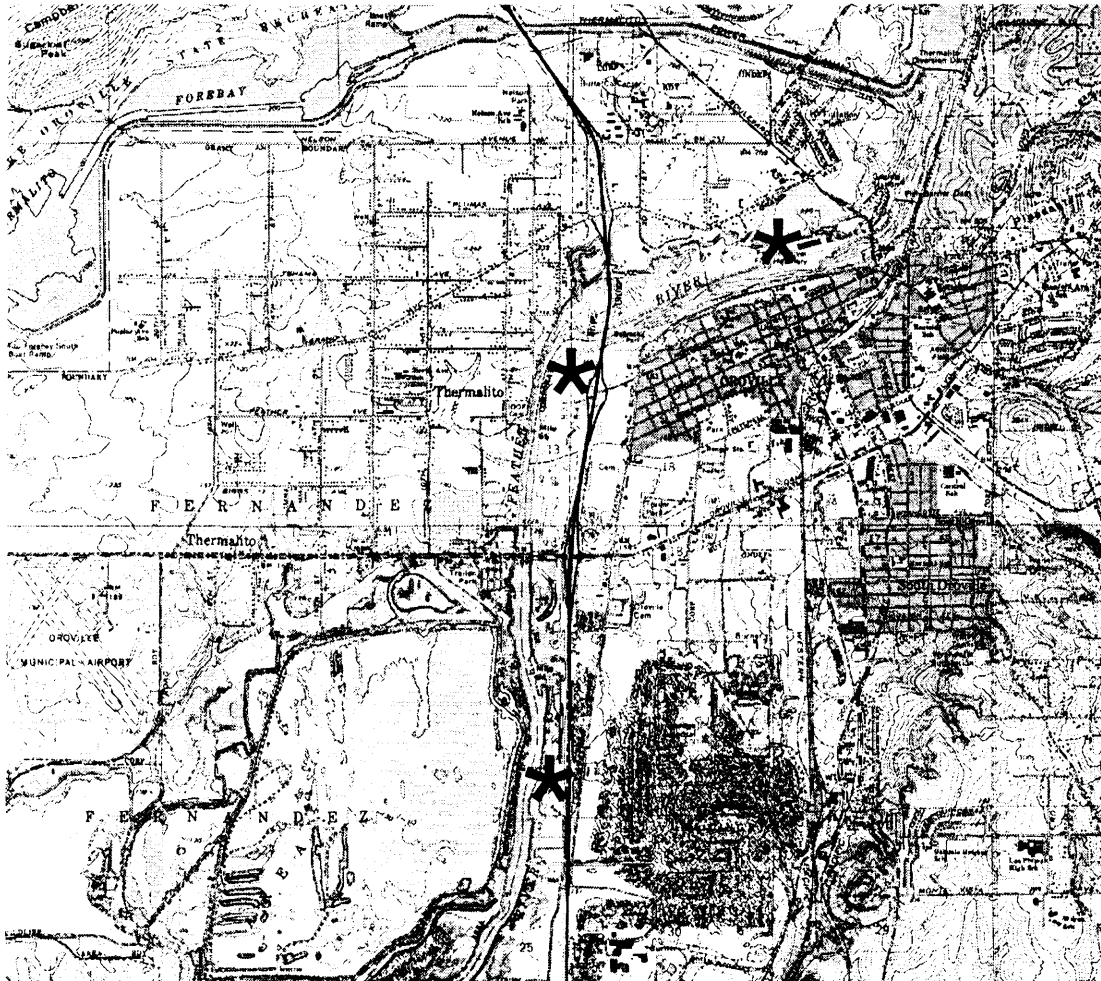
- Appropriate development could stimulate adjacent housing development
- Provide additional day use recreation opportunities for the citizens of Oroville and Gridley
- Zone Afterbay for different boating uses including PWC's
- Potential projects
 - Additional day use/camping at South East complex
 - Sandy beaches to mitigate muddy shoreline at designated warm weather swimming area(s)
 - Equestrian center/trails
 - Special events venue
 - Bike trail around Afterbay
 - Aquatic Center
 - Boat and/or barge in camping on islands



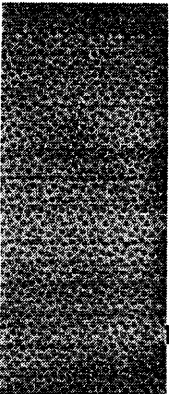
Recommended Studies

- Power generation and down stream release impacts on potential recreation uses at Afterbay
- Potential for added power generation at outlet
- City of Oroville future growth projections around Afterbay

F. Feather River next to Historic Oroville



- Image/
Character/
Unique Values
- Issues &
Constraints
- Opportunities
- Recommended
Studies



Image/ Character/ Unique Values

- Community river frontage – Historic
- Connects to wildlife area down river
- Visible from freeway
- Close to hatchery Chinese temple, community center, and nature center
- A urban/natural interface area



Issues & Conflicts

- Significant damage to natural values
- Levee separates city from river
- Conflict with CDPR on site for visitor center
- How to reconnect the city with the river (physically, visually, emotionally, & culturally)
- Low flow (400-600 cfs.) and cold water for fish needs
- Renewal of fish hatchery visitor facilities
- Trail access along Hwy 70 and access across the diversion dam
- Closed former city park site



Opportunities

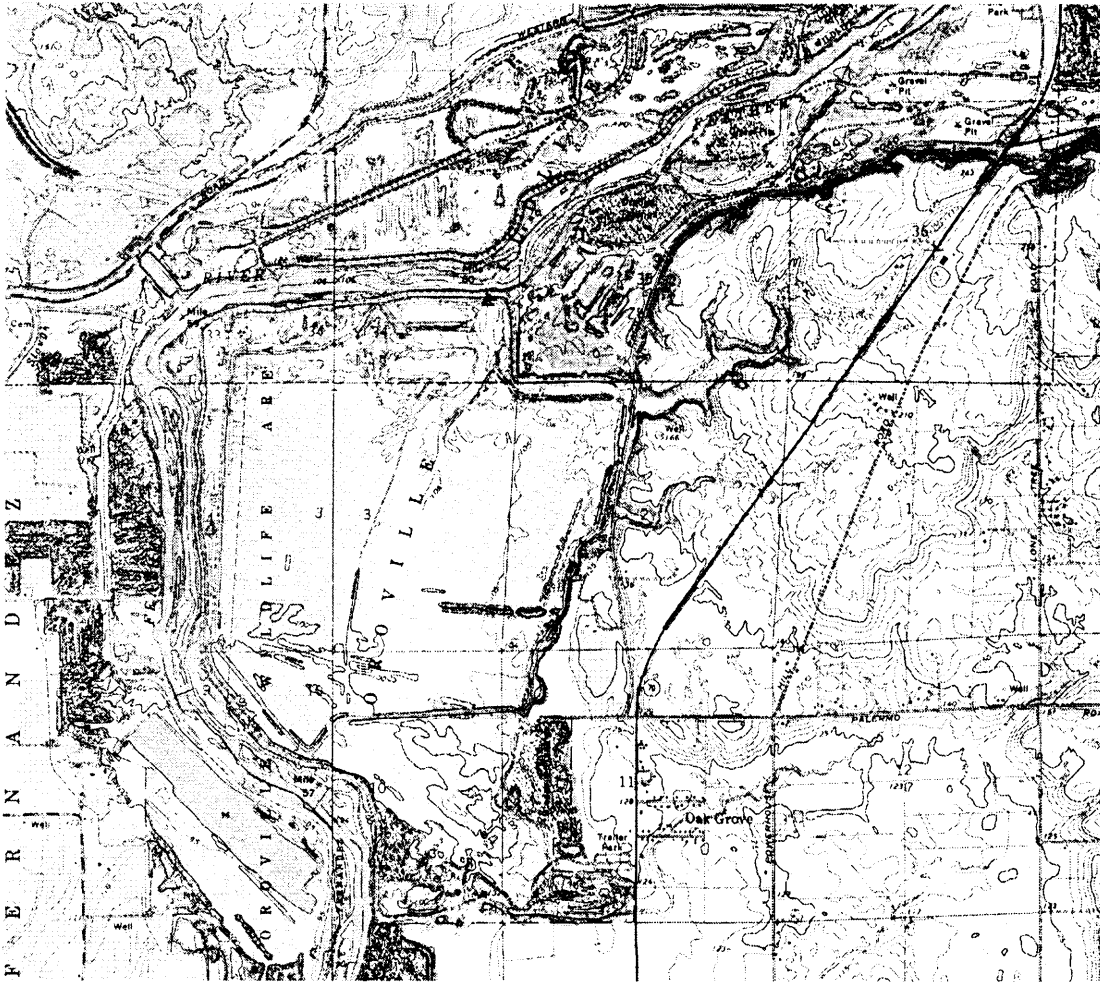
- Provide an “Old Oroville” historic/cultural city core re-developed area as a visitor information and visitor serving area
- Potential projects
 - Visitor center
 - Loop trails
 - 9 hole golf course
 - Transportation link (train) between city and wildlife area downriver
 - Transportation link (train) from diversion pool area, through City, to wildlife area downriver
 - Tribal Cultural Center
 - Flash dam restoration
 - Gold mining dredger park/visitor center
 - Relocate industrial uses between river and freeway and improve scenic values at city entry
 - Recreation related public/private partnerships along river front



Recommended Studies

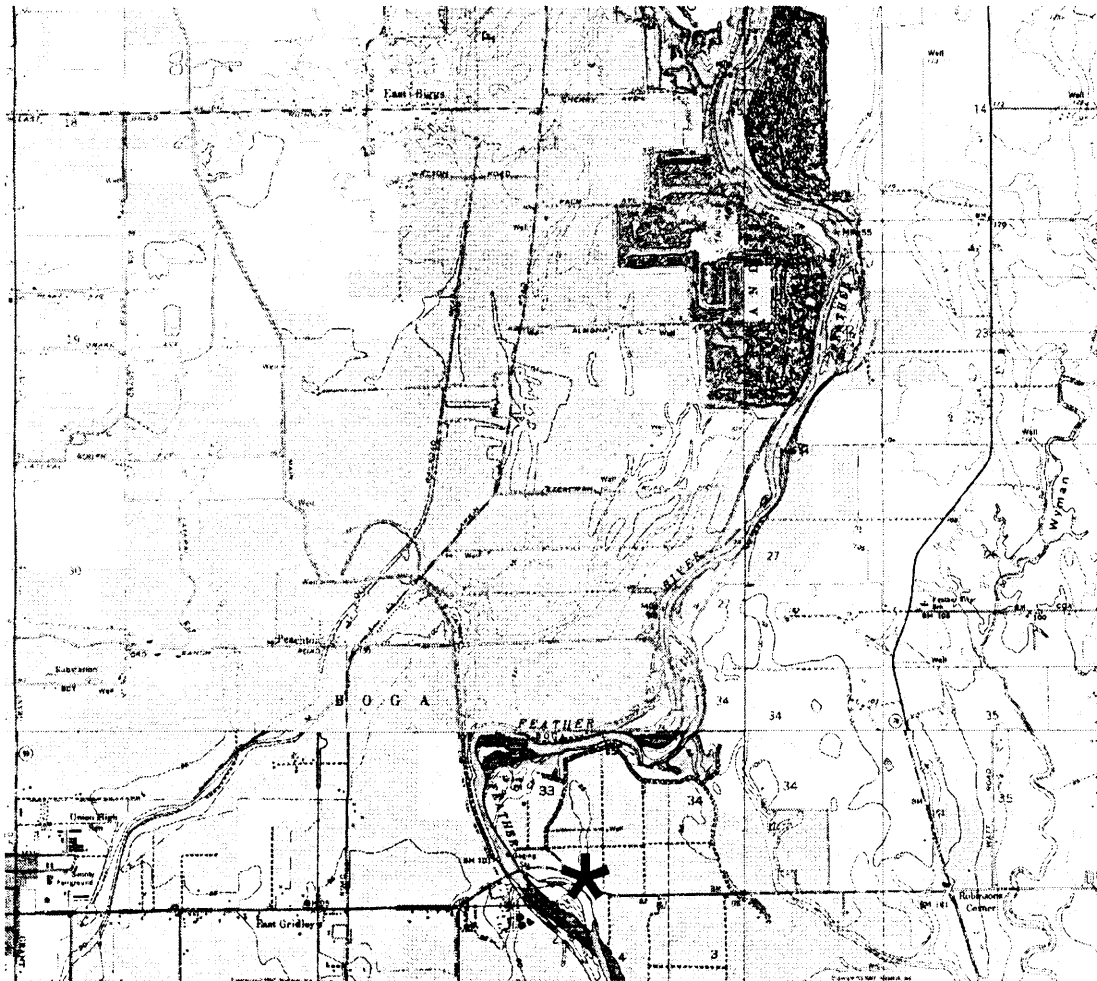
- Selection of the best visitor center site
- Selection of the best Tribal cultural site
- Flash dam feasibility
- Golf course feasibility study

G. Feather River in Wildlife Area



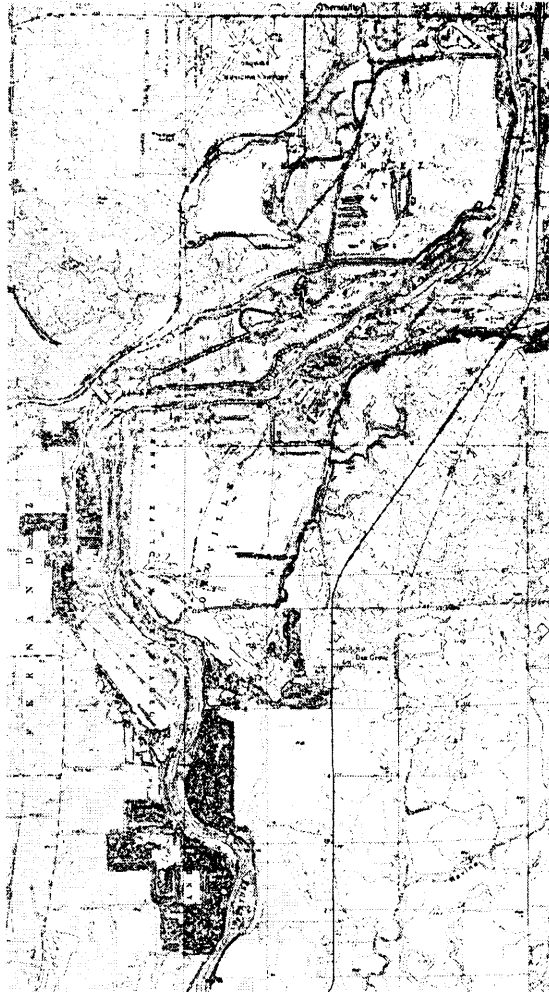
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Studies

H. Feather River near Gridley



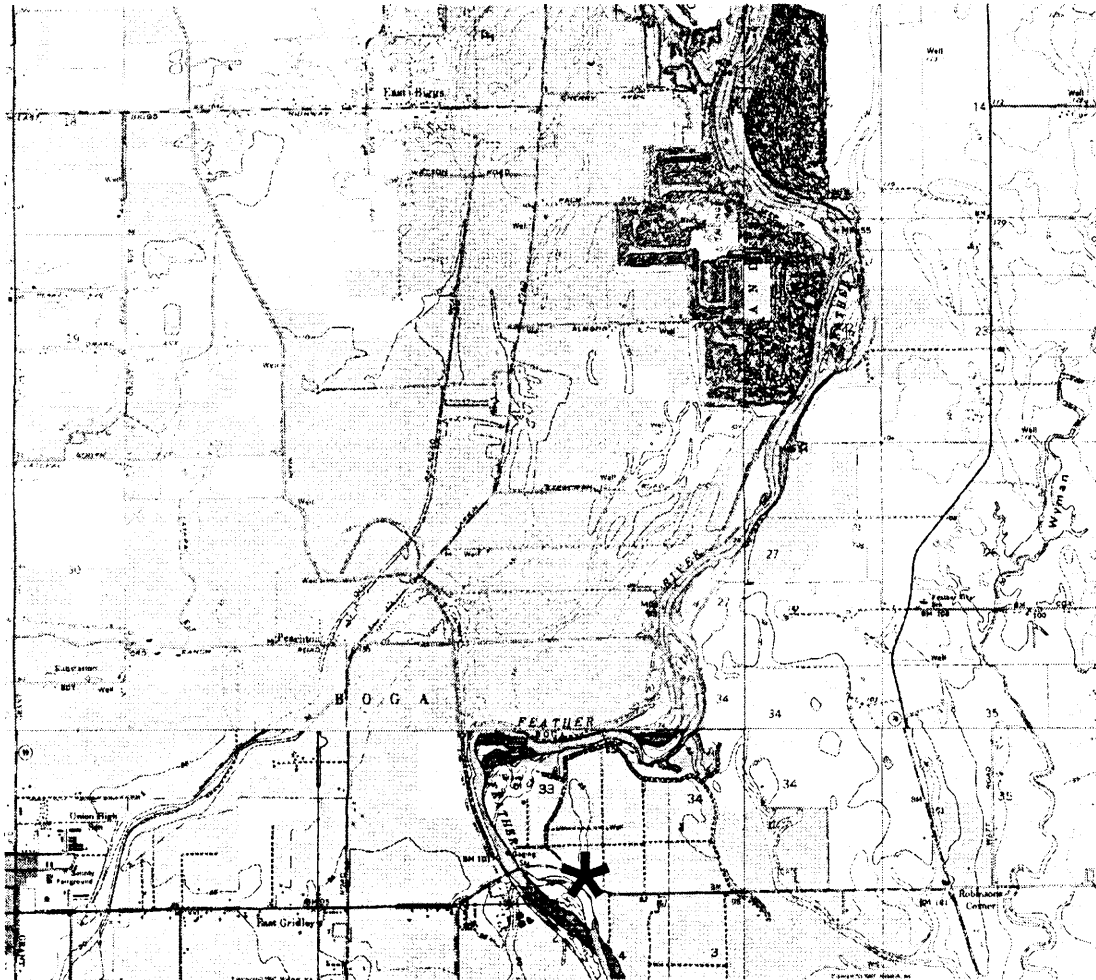
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Studies

I. Oroville Wildlife Area



- Image/
Character/
Unique Values
- Issues &
Constraints
- Opportunities
- Recommended
Studies

H. Feather River near Gridley



- Image/
Character/
Unique Values
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Studies

General ALP Project Area



- Recommended Studies
- Review of Existing Studies



Overall Recommended Studies

- Complete inventory & analysis of all regional resources (cultural, archeological, recreation, fish & wildlife, open space, agriculture, etc.)
- Opportunities & constraints analysis by resource area
- Synchronized planning between CDWR, CSP, CDFG, and local government
- Fisheries study – All water bodies
- Recreation demand study
- Trail plan connecting all resource areas within the ALP project area



Overall Recommended Studies – cont.

- Regional tourism study/market analysis
- Weather impact on recreation use opportunities by resource area
- Warm water swimming area potentials within ALP project area
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Project economic feasibility studies as appropriate
- Engineering feasibility studies
- Recreation Facility Operations & Management Plan



Review of Existing Studies

- “CDPR Outdoor Recreation Preference Survey”, 1997
- “Reservoirs of Opportunity: Report of the National Recreation Lakes Study Commission,” June 1999
- Review current studies on Lake Shasta, Lake Berryessa, Lake Folsom, and the Delta



Projected Participation Charts

■ Recreation Activities

■ Day-Use Related
Activities

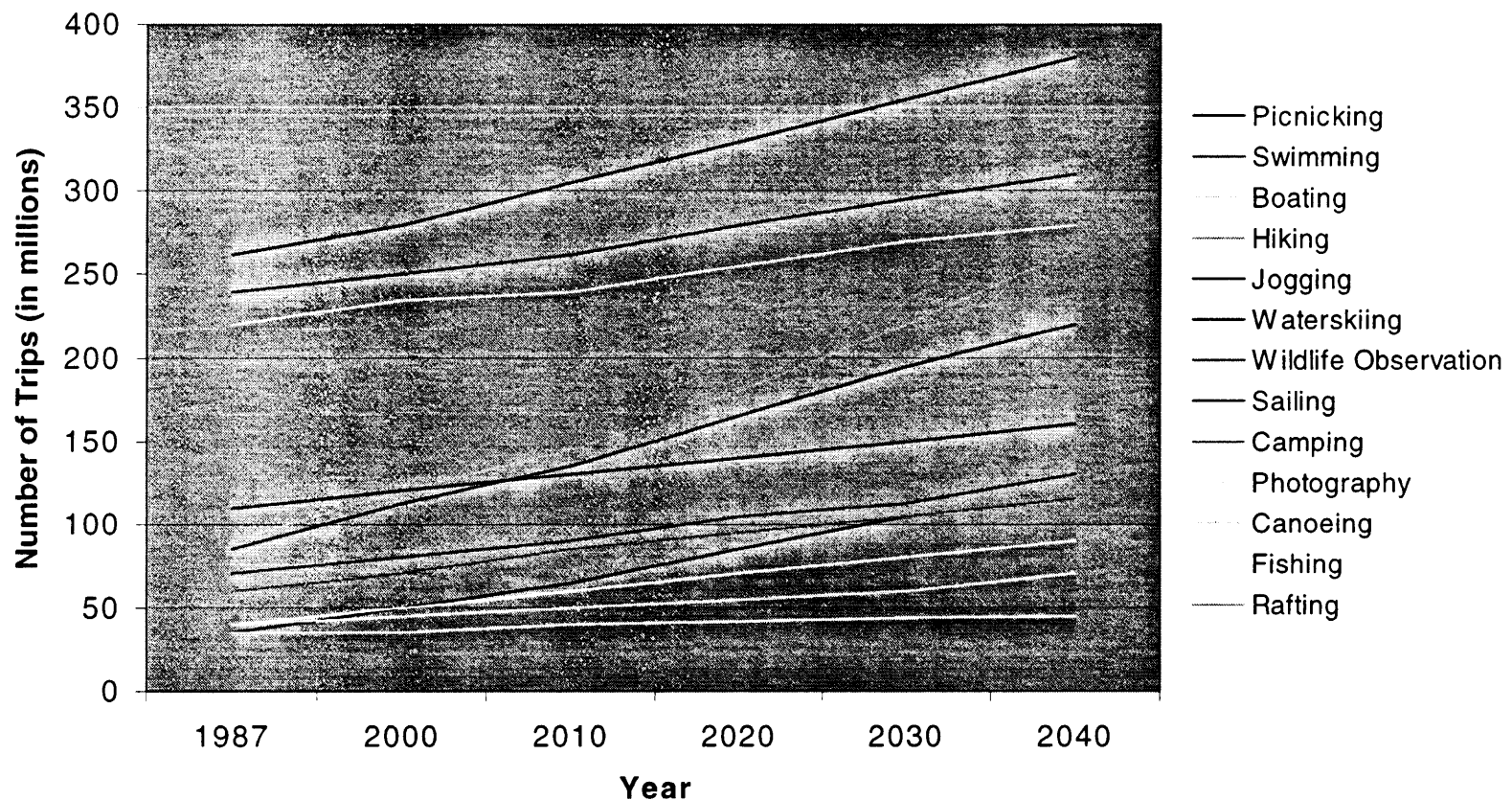
■ Trails Related
Activities

■ Wildlife Related
Activities

■ Boating Related
Activities

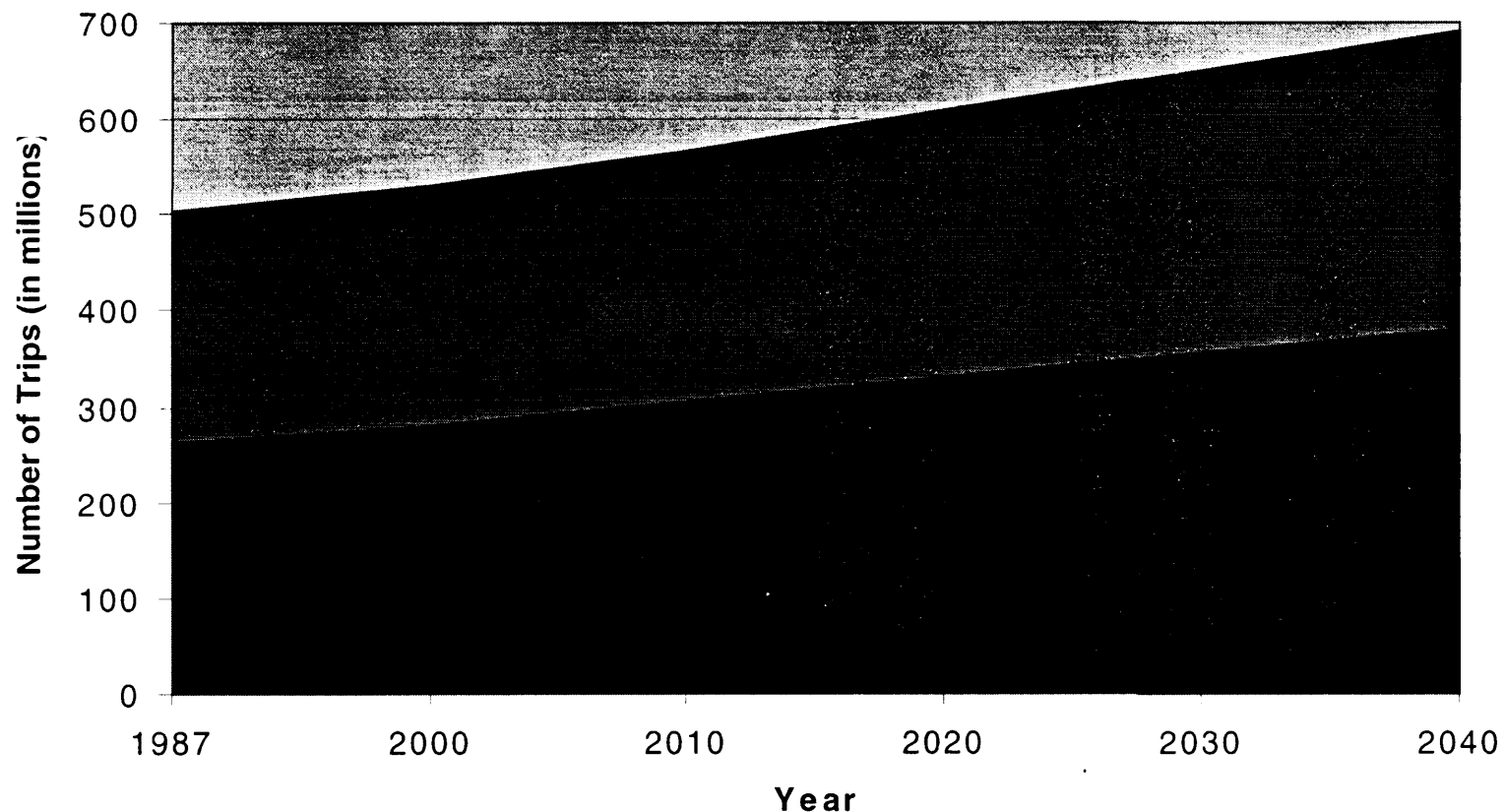
■ River Related
Activities

Projected Participation in Recreation Activities



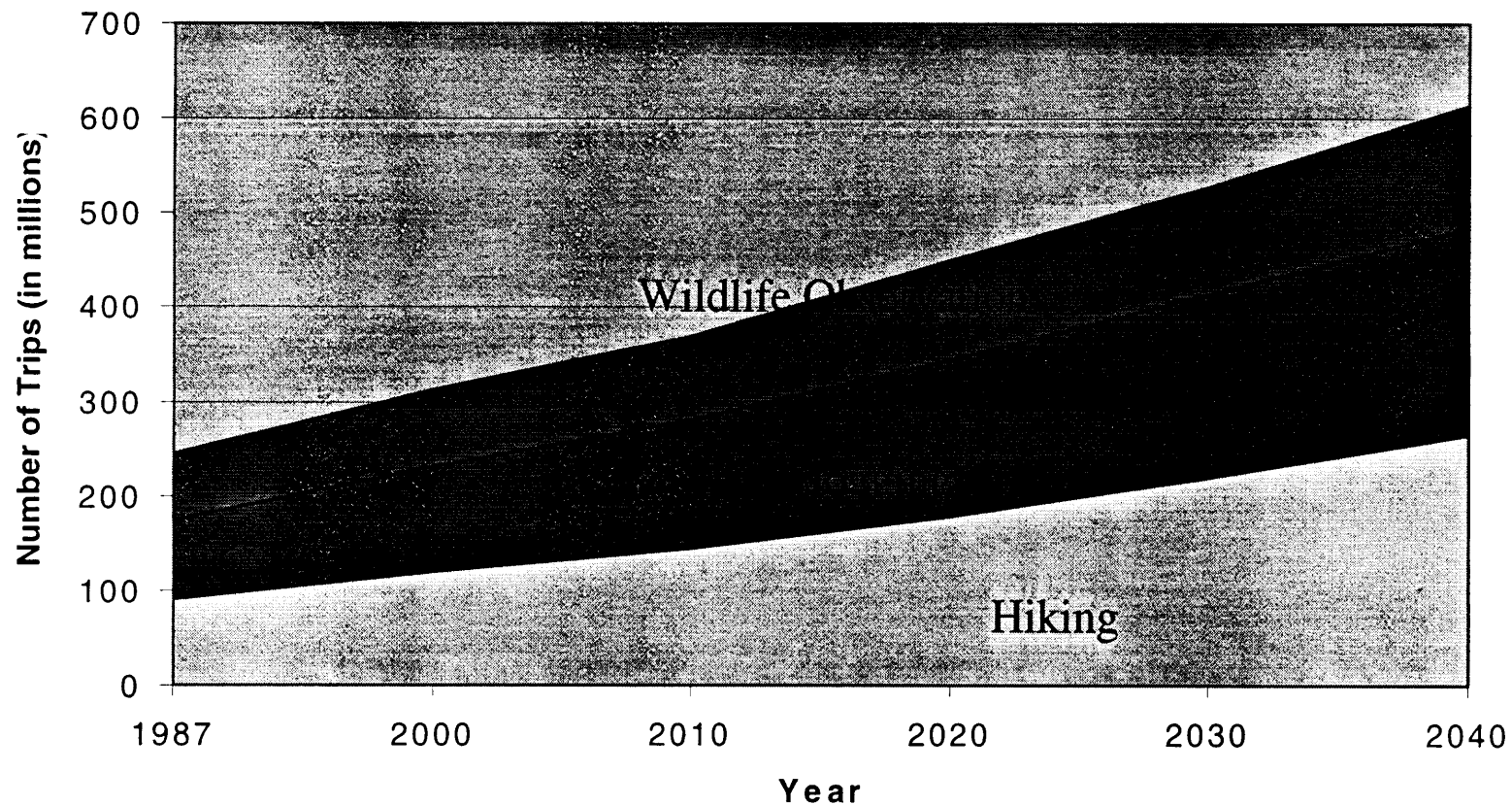
Source: National Recreation Lakes Study Commission, June 1999

Projected Participation in Day-Use Related Activities



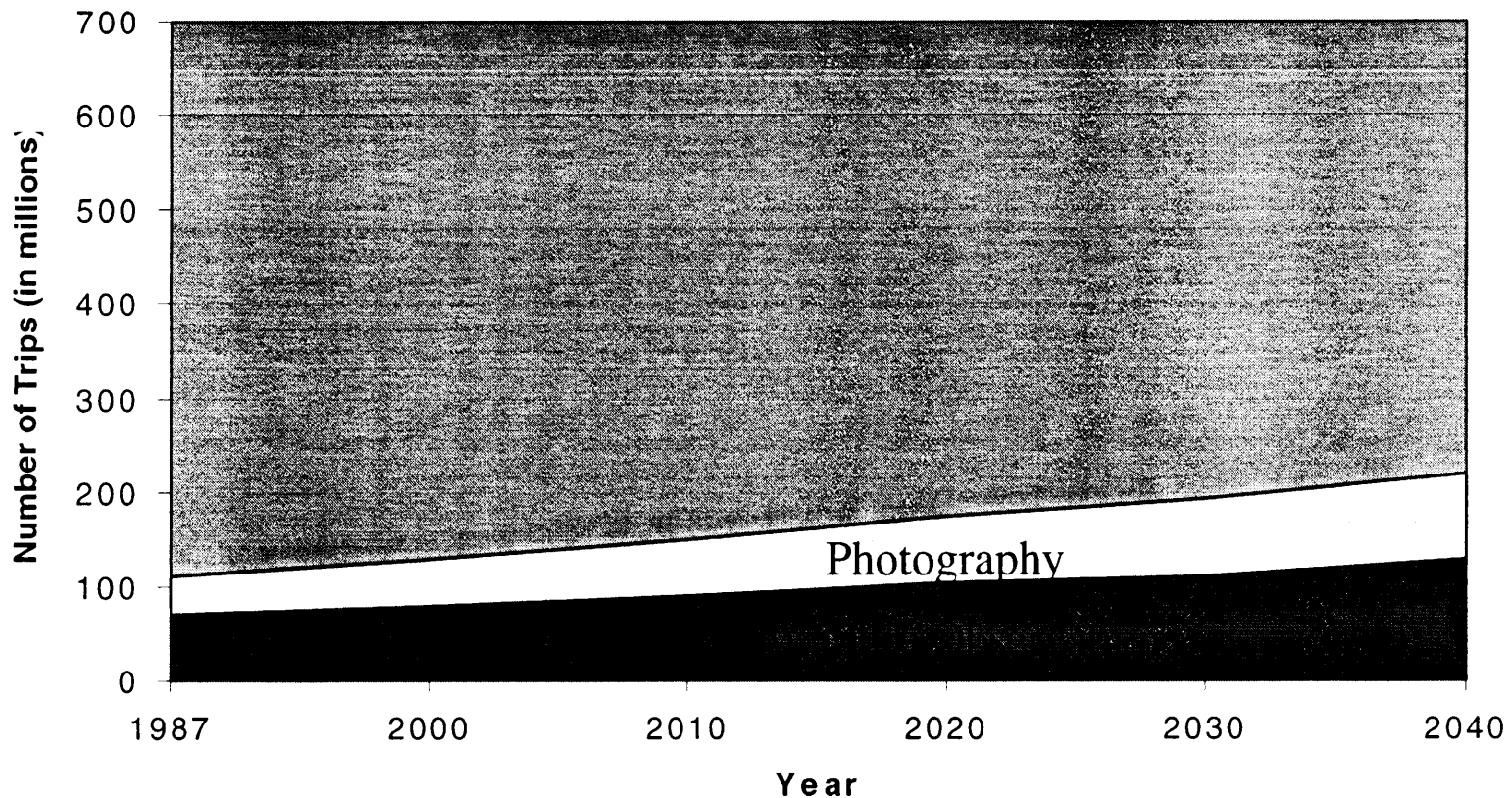
Source: National Recreation Lakes Study Commission, June 1999

Projected Participation in Trails Related Activities



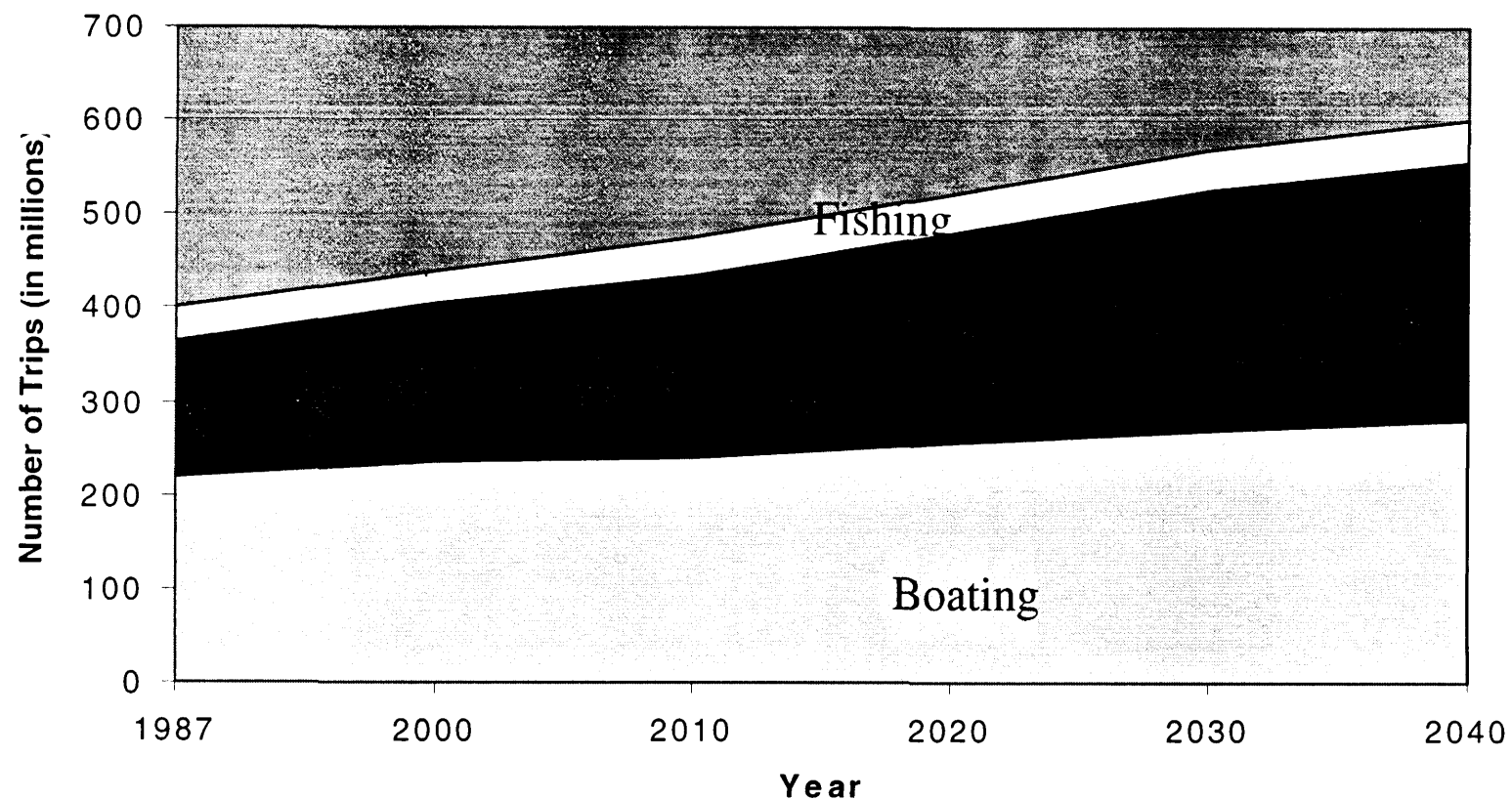
Source: National Recreation Lakes Study Commission, June 1999

Projected Participation in Wildlife Related Activities



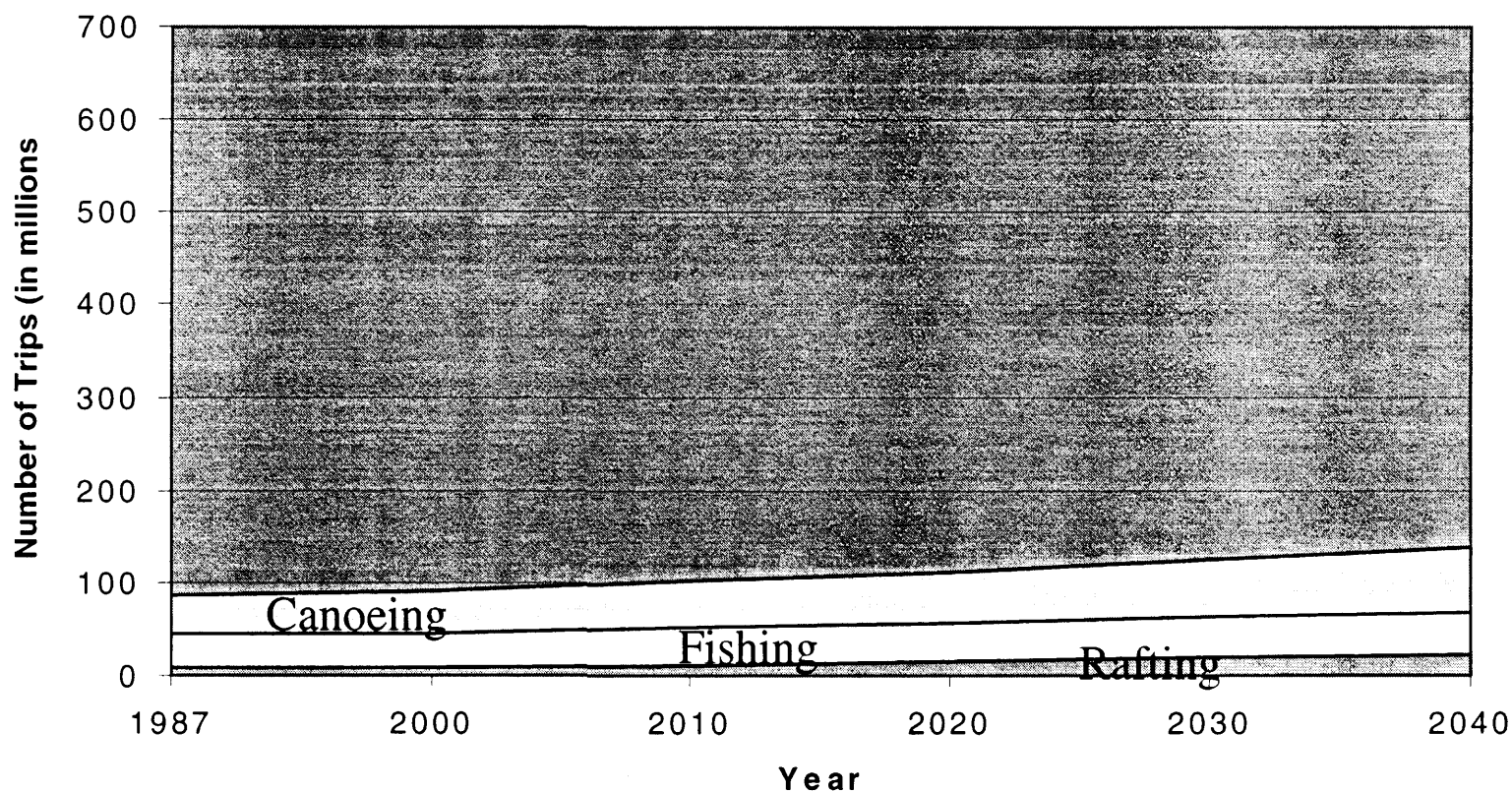
Source: National Recreation Lakes Study Commission, June 1999

Projected Participation in Boating Related Activities



Source: National Recreation Lakes Study Commission, June 1999

Projected Participation in River Related Activities



Source: National Recreation Lakes Study Commission, June 1999